

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	CRIMINAL NO.
)	
SHAWN A. HOFFMAN)	

STATEMENT OF FACTS

It is agreed upon by and between the parties that the following facts are true:

In December, 2002, Maha Kattan, a resident of McClean, Virginia, listed a diamond and ruby necklace and matching earrings for sale on eBay for \$20,000.00. The website eBay is a internet site that enables individuals to auction or trade goods. On December 15, 2002 Ms. Kattan was contacted by the defendant, identifying himself as Damien Antonio, via email account frozenfrozen@ureach.com. The defendant proposed a direct sale of the necklace and also directed Ms. Kattan to an escrow service offered through a website called www.safexchange-escrow.com. On December 17, 2002, Ms. Kattan viewed the escrow service website and registered for an account. She later received emails from what appeared to be legitimate escrow service email account advising her that the escrow service had received the funds from the defendant and that she was to ship the necklace and earrings to the address provided by the defendant. In a previous email on December 17, 2002, the defendant had requested that Ms. Kattan ship the jewelry to a United States Parcel Service (UPS) customer

counter in Horsham, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia, PA. On December 17, 2002 Ms. Kattan sent the jewelry to the defendant, who she knew as Damien Antonio, via UPS with the delivery instructions "hold for pickup."

On December 18, 2002 the defendant and another individual picked up the package containing the jewelry at the UPS counter in Horsham, PA. False identification was shown at the counter. Ms. Kattan never received the promised escrow funds of \$19,224.00. The escrow website www.safexchange-escrow.com was in fact controlled by the defendant. A legitimate escrow website called www.safe-ex.com, located in Singapore, does exist but has no connection to the fraudulent website operated by the defendant. The two websites appear virtually identical.

The defendant subsequently sold the necklace of Ms. Kattan through a jeweler in New York City. Funds from the sale of the necklace were deposited into the account by the defendant at Washington Savings Bank, Account Number 400001319.

Ms. Kattan subsequently filed a complaint on the FBI's Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IFCC), a central database of all on-line complaints of fraudulent activity conducted over the internet. An analysis by the FBI of this and other complaints to the IFCC revealed scheme by the defendant to defraud eBay customers of more than \$200,000.00 in high value items such as jewelry using a fake escrow web page. An analysis of email accounts, bank records, and other data identified the defendant, Shawn A. Hoffman residing at 9231 Treaty Road, Philadelphia, PA.

A search was conducted by the FBI of the defendant's residence on August 14, 2003. Two computers of the defendant were seized and the defendant confessed to the agents. He acknowledged defrauding numerous victims over the internet since 2001. Items obtained fraudulently by the defendant from victims included a 6.5 carat diamond ring, 7.2 diamond earrings, a 13 carat diamond necklace, Rolex watches and a Sony recorder.

The parties agree that the total amount of loss readily provable for purposes of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines totals \$285,034.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

PAUL J. McNULTY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By:

Robert W. Wiechering
Assistant United States Attorney

Seen and Agreed:

Shawn A. Hoffman
Defendant

Patrick Egan
Counsel for the Defendant

